

STATISTICAL TABLES OF A SURVEY OF THE
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES
AVAILABLE TO THE BLIND RESIDENTS OF
METROPOLITAN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JULY 1956

Prepared by

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

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The more significant findings of this survey have been discussed in a separate report. It is recommended that these tables be utilized in conjunction with the volume entitled, 'Community Services to Blind Adults and Children: An Interpretation of Significant Findings in the "Statistical Tables of a Survey of the Community Services and Facilities Available to the Blind Residents of Metropolitan Boston, Massachusetts"' - July, 1956.

April 30, 1957

Division of Community Relations
American Foundation for the Blind

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I. Specialized Agencies for the Blind

II. Non-specialized Agencies Serving Blind Individuals

CONSIDERATIONS IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THESE TABLES

Estimated versus Known Population: Tables 1 and 2

It will be noted that the estimated blind population of 3,988 is 10 percent higher than the number of blind individuals -- 3,556 -- known to the Massachusetts Register or to the agencies of Metropolitan Boston. The estimate was obtained by applying Dr. Ralph Hurlin's 1952 estimated rate of blindness per 1,000 population for the State of Massachusetts to Boston's 1956 population. Bearing in mind that an estimate is an approximation and not an absolute number, several explanations of the discrepancy suggest themselves:

1. The 1952 rate for Massachusetts may not be applicable to Metropolitan Boston in 1956;
2. Registers normally are not 100 percent complete; the Massachusetts Register of the Blind is subject to the general rule. Full reporting on newly blind individuals over age fifty-five in middle and upper income brackets is most apt to be wanting;
3. The 1956 total population figure of 2,431,605 inhabitants of Metropolitan Boston, obtained by extrapolation from the 1950 United States Census, may be too high.

This interpreter suggests that all three above-named factors have operated to present a 10 percent discrepancy between the estimated number and the number in this survey.

Estimated Age Distribution of the Blind Population: Tables 3 and 4

In estimating the age distribution of this blind population, Dr. Hurlin's formula was adjusted to compensate for the high frequency of retrolental fibroplasia in the Boston area during the late 1940's and 1950's. The child with retrolental fibroplasia has begun to figure in the school age population.

"Housewives" in this Survey: Tables 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17

Successful performance of the role of housewife is one index of a woman's integration into the American community. Of the 190 women whose major employment status was reported as "housewife" (Tables 13 and 14), 14 also were employed outside the home. All but one of the 14 was in competitive industry.

"Unknowns"

The answer "Unknown" was a legitimate response on the schedules used in this survey. There are instances in which record keeping compatible with the needs of a given agency do not require information on all of the specifics of the "selected social characteristics" under consideration. However, these tables show strikingly large percentages of "Unknowns" on degree of vision (Table 18); source of visual acuity data (Table 23A); most usual mode of travel (Table 38); education of the adult

blind (Table 34); age at which blindness was first diagnosed (Table 27). These are areas in which accurate, up-to-date information is a requisite for service and service programming. Consequently it is imperative to keep in mind that the category "Unknown" reflects (1) the direct response and (2) contradictory replies from two or more agencies serving the same individual: replies which could neither be reconciled nor verified were uniformly coded "Unknown." In either case, the figures raise a serious question as to the adequacy for service and service planning of the current information of Metropolitan Boston's agencies concerning the blind population of the area.

"Adults" in this Survey:

All individuals age twenty-one and over have been coded as "adults."

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 1. ESTIMATED BLIND POPULATION: 1950, 1956*

MASSACHUSETTS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>Estimated Number of Blind Individuals</u>
1950	4,690,514	1.64	7,692
1956	4,845,000	1.64	7,946

METROPOLITAN BOSTON

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>Estimated Number of Blind Individuals</u>
1950	2,369,986	1.64**	3,886
1956	2,431,605***	1.64****	3,988

*Based on Dr. Ralph G. Hurlin's formula described in his publication Estimated Prevalence of Blindness in the United States; American Foundation for the Blind, New York, 1953.

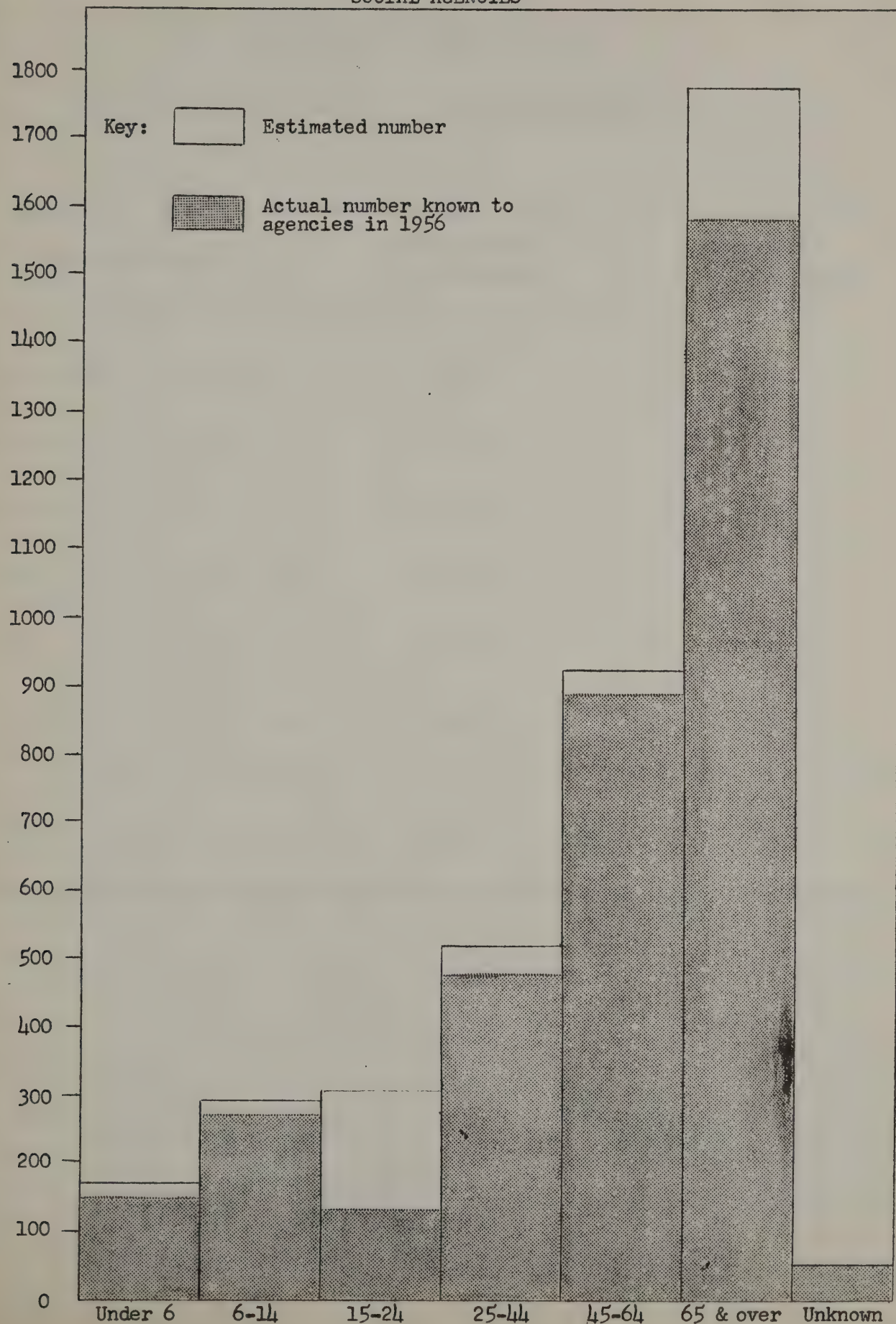
**Assuming that 1) the 1952 rate for Metropolitan Boston is the same as the rate for Massachusetts, 2) that the 1952 rate applied in 1950. United States Census Bulletin P-B21: Massachusetts General Characteristics was used.

***Assuming that the 2.6 percent increase in the population of Massachusetts, 1950 - 1956, applies to Metropolitan Boston.

****Assuming that the 1952 rate still applies.

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 2. COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED BLIND POPULATION WITH BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES



METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 3. ESTIMATED AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLIND POPULATION

Chronological age	Percent of total blind population	Estimated blind population
Under 6 years.....	4.26	170
6 - 14.....	7.27	290
15 - 24.....	7.77	310
25 - 44.....	13.03	520
45 - 64.....	23.31	930
65 and over.....	44.36	1770
Total.....	100.00	3990

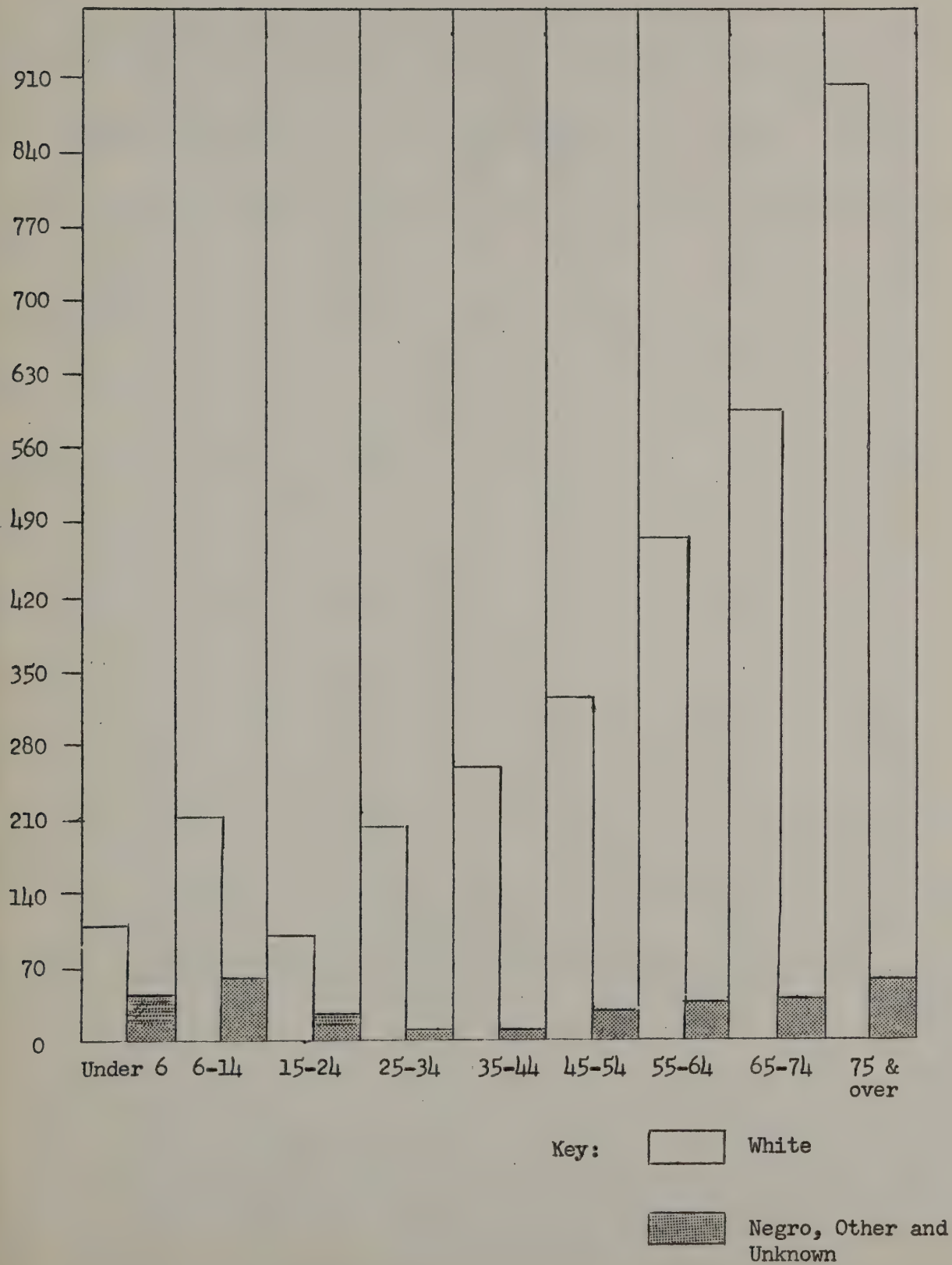
METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 4. COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED AGE DISTRIBUTION WITH AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES

Chronological age	Estimate of incidence of blindness in Metropolitan Boston		Total blind population known to agencies	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 6.....	170	4.26	152	4.27
6 - 14.....	290	7.27	272	7.64
15 - 24.....	310	7.77	130	3.66
25 - 44.....	520	13.03	475	13.36
45 - 64.....	930	23.31	878	24.70
65 and over.....	1770	44.36	1599	44.96
Unknown.....	--	--	50	1.41
Total.....	3990	100.00	3556	100.00

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 5. BLIND INDIVIDUALS KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY AGE AND RACE



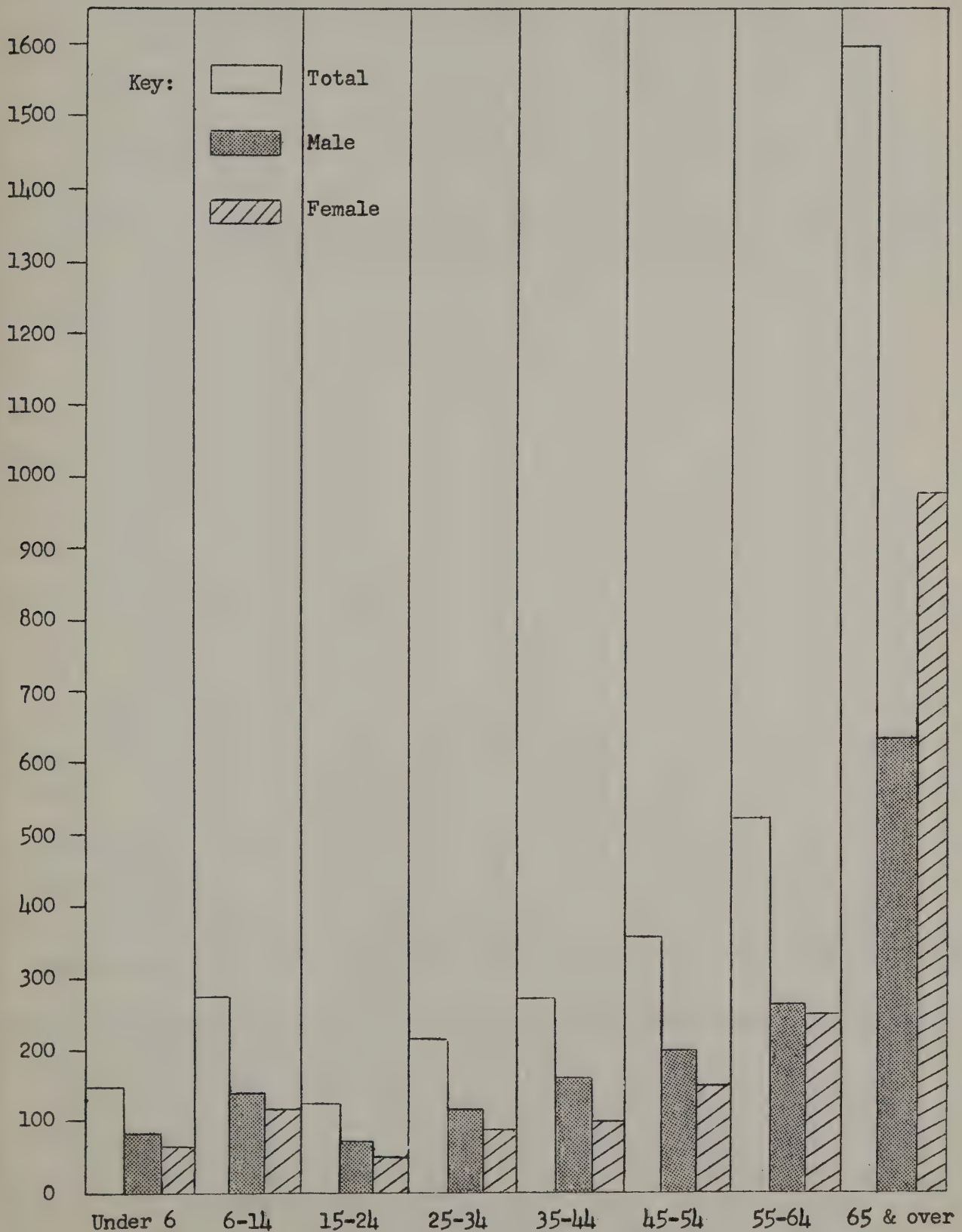
METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 6. BLIND INDIVIDUALS KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY AGE AND SEX

Chronological age	Total blind individuals		Male	Female
	Num- ber	Per- cent		
Under 1 year.....	8	0.2	4	4
1 - 2 years.....	13	0.4	8	5
3 - 5.....	131	3.7	71	60
6 - 14.....	272	7.6	149	123
15 - 18.....	47	1.3	28	19
19 - 24.....	83	2.2	50	33
25 - 34.....	212	6.0	123	89
35 - 44.....	263	7.4	162	101
45 - 54.....	360	10.1	203	157
55 - 64.....	518	14.6	266	252
65 - 74.....	642	18.1	289	353
75 and over.....	957	26.9	331	626
Unknown.....	50	1.5	20	30
Total.....	3556	100.0	1704	1852

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 7. BLIND INDIVIDUALS KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY AGE AND SEX



Note: Fifty blind individuals (20 males, 30 females) whose age is unknown are not shown on this graph.

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 8. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY
RACE AND SEX

Chronological age	Total blind persons		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Under 1 year.....	8	0.2	7	3	4	--	--	--	1	1	--
1 - 2.....	13	0.4	10	6	4	--	--	--	3	2	1
3 - 5.....	131	3.7	98	58	40	6	3	3	27	10	17
6 - 14.....	272	7.6	211	119	92	6	2	4	55	28	27
15 - 18.....	47	1.3	36	20	16	--	--	--	11	8	3
19 - 24.....	83	2.2	71	45	26	1	--	1	11	5	6
25 - 34.....	212	6.0	202	117	85	6	2	4	4	4	--
35 - 44.....	263	7.4	253	156	97	8	5	3	2	1	1
45 - 54.....	360	10.1	333	187	146	19	12	7	8	4	4
55 - 64.....	518	14.6	479	245	234	33	17	16	6	4	2
65 - 74.....	642	18.1	599	268	331	32	16	16	11	5	6
75 and over.....	957	26.9	900	303	597	34	19	15	23	9	14
Unknown.....	50	1.5	38	16	22	--	--	--	12	4	8
Total.....	3556	100.0	3237	1543	1694	145	76	69	174	85	89

TABLE 1

Summary of the results of the investigation of the effect of the concentration of the solution on the rate of the reaction.

Concentration of the solution, g/l.	Time, min.	Rate of the reaction, g/l. min.	Initial concentration, g/l.	Final concentration, g/l.	Change in concentration, g/l.	Percentage change in concentration, %	Rate of the reaction, g/l. min.	Initial concentration, g/l.	Final concentration, g/l.	Change in concentration, g/l.	Percentage change in concentration, %
1.0	10	0.1	1.0	0.9	0.1	10	0.1	1.0	0.9	0.1	10
2.0	10	0.2	2.0	1.8	0.2	10	0.2	2.0	1.8	0.2	10
3.0	10	0.3	3.0	2.7	0.3	10	0.3	3.0	2.7	0.3	10
4.0	10	0.4	4.0	3.6	0.4	10	0.4	4.0	3.6	0.4	10
5.0	10	0.5	5.0	4.5	0.5	10	0.5	5.0	4.5	0.5	10
6.0	10	0.6	6.0	5.4	0.6	10	0.6	6.0	5.4	0.6	10
7.0	10	0.7	7.0	6.3	0.7	10	0.7	7.0	6.3	0.7	10
8.0	10	0.8	8.0	7.2	0.8	10	0.8	8.0	7.2	0.8	10
9.0	10	0.9	9.0	8.1	0.9	10	0.9	9.0	8.1	0.9	10
10.0	10	1.0	10.0	9.0	1.0	10	1.0	10.0	9.0	1.0	10
11.0	10	1.1	11.0	9.9	1.1	10	1.1	11.0	9.9	1.1	10
12.0	10	1.2	12.0	10.8	1.2	10	1.2	12.0	10.8	1.2	10
13.0	10	1.3	13.0	11.7	1.3	10	1.3	13.0	11.7	1.3	10
14.0	10	1.4	14.0	12.6	1.4	10	1.4	14.0	12.6	1.4	10
15.0	10	1.5	15.0	13.5	1.5	10	1.5	15.0	13.5	1.5	10
16.0	10	1.6	16.0	14.4	1.6	10	1.6	16.0	14.4	1.6	10
17.0	10	1.7	17.0	15.3	1.7	10	1.7	17.0	15.3	1.7	10
18.0	10	1.8	18.0	16.2	1.8	10	1.8	18.0	16.2	1.8	10
19.0	10	1.9	19.0	17.1	1.9	10	1.9	19.0	17.1	1.9	10
20.0	10	2.0	20.0	18.0	2.0	10	2.0	20.0	18.0	2.0	10
21.0	10	2.1	21.0	18.9	2.1	10	2.1	21.0	18.9	2.1	10
22.0	10	2.2	22.0	19.8	2.2	10	2.2	22.0	19.8	2.2	10
23.0	10	2.3	23.0	20.7	2.3	10	2.3	23.0	20.7	2.3	10
24.0	10	2.4	24.0	21.6	2.4	10	2.4	24.0	21.6	2.4	10
25.0	10	2.5	25.0	22.5	2.5	10	2.5	25.0	22.5	2.5	10
26.0	10	2.6	26.0	23.4	2.6	10	2.6	26.0	23.4	2.6	10
27.0	10	2.7	27.0	24.3	2.7	10	2.7	27.0	24.3	2.7	10
28.0	10	2.8	28.0	25.2	2.8	10	2.8	28.0	25.2	2.8	10
29.0	10	2.9	29.0	26.1	2.9	10	2.9	29.0	26.1	2.9	10
30.0	10	3.0	30.0	27.0	3.0	10	3.0	30.0	27.0	3.0	10
31.0	10	3.1	31.0	27.9	3.1	10	3.1	31.0	27.9	3.1	10
32.0	10	3.2	32.0	28.8	3.2	10	3.2	32.0	28.8	3.2	10
33.0	10	3.3	33.0	29.7	3.3	10	3.3	33.0	29.7	3.3	10
34.0	10	3.4	34.0	30.6	3.4	10	3.4	34.0	30.6	3.4	10
35.0	10	3.5	35.0	31.5	3.5	10	3.5	35.0	31.5	3.5	10
36.0	10	3.6	36.0	32.4	3.6	10	3.6	36.0	32.4	3.6	10
37.0	10	3.7	37.0	33.3	3.7	10	3.7	37.0	33.3	3.7	10
38.0	10	3.8	38.0	34.2	3.8	10	3.8	38.0	34.2	3.8	10
39.0	10	3.9	39.0	35.1	3.9	10	3.9	39.0	35.1	3.9	10
40.0	10	4.0	40.0	36.0	4.0	10	4.0	40.0	36.0	4.0	10
41.0	10	4.1	41.0	36.9	4.1	10	4.1	41.0	36.9	4.1	10
42.0	10	4.2	42.0	37.8	4.2	10	4.2	42.0	37.8	4.2	10
43.0	10	4.3	43.0	38.7	4.3	10	4.3	43.0	38.7	4.3	10
44.0	10	4.4	44.0	39.6	4.4	10	4.4	44.0	39.6	4.4	10
45.0	10	4.5	45.0	40.5	4.5	10	4.5	45.0	40.5	4.5	10
46.0	10	4.6	46.0	41.4	4.6	10	4.6	46.0	41.4	4.6	10
47.0	10	4.7	47.0	42.3	4.7	10	4.7	47.0	42.3	4.7	10
48.0	10	4.8	48.0	43.2	4.8	10	4.8	48.0	43.2	4.8	10
49.0	10	4.9	49.0	44.1	4.9	10	4.9	49.0	44.1	4.9	10
50.0	10	5.0	50.0	45.0	5.0	10	5.0	50.0	45.0	5.0	10

Summary of the results of the investigation of the effect of the concentration of the solution on the rate of the reaction.

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 9. MARITAL STATUS OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES

Marital status	Total blind persons		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Total Male Female			Total Male Female			Total Male Female		
			Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Single.....	925	30.2	878	431	447	36	20	16	11	4	7
Married.....	1120	36.6	1069	603	466	37	25	12	14	8	6
Widowed.....	756	24.7	702	180	522	42	13	29	12	2	10
Divorced.....	47	1.5	38	17	21	8	6	2	1	--	1
Separated.....	76	2.5	67	40	27	8	6	2	1	1	--
Other.....	1	0.1	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--
Unknown.....	137	4.4	109	59	50	1	--	1	27	16	11
Total.....	3062	100.0	2863	1330	1533	133	71	62	66	31	35

Table 10. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY MARITAL STATUS

Chronological age	Total blind persons		Sex		Marital status						
	Num- ber	Per- Cent	Male	Female	Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Other	Unknown
21 - 24 years.....	60	1.9	38	22	47	9	--	1	--	--	3
25 - 34.....	212	6.9	123	89	139	62	--	4	2	--	5
35 - 44.....	263	8.6	162	101	119	128	2	3	6	--	5
45 - 54.....	360	11.8	203	157	133	170	19	11	19	1	7
55 - 64.....	518	16.9	266	252	141	262	65	9	18	--	23
65 - 74.....	642	21.0	289	353	152	258	179	11	19	--	23
75 and over.....	957	31.3	331	626	186	222	486	7	12	--	44
Unknown.....	50	1.6	20	30	8	9	5	1	--	--	27
Total.....	3062	100.0	1432	1630	925	1120	756	47	76	1	137

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Table 11. EMPLOYABILITY OF ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES

Employability	Total blind persons		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Employable.....	912	29.8	873	509	364	32	18	14	7	5	2
Unemployable....	1887	61.6	1763	702	1061	81	43	38	43	19	24
Unknown.....	263	8.6	227	119	108	20	10	10	16	7	9
Total.....	3062	100.0	2863	1330	1533	133	71	62	66	31	35

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 12. EMPLOYABILITY OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY AGE

Employability	Total blind persons		Chronological age							
	Num- ber	Per- cent	21- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over	Un- known
Employable.....	912	29.8	43	157	195	252	205	48	10	2
Unemployable.....	1887	61.6	10	32	38	64	196	594	946	7
Unknown.....	263	8.6	7	23	30	44	117	--	1	41
Total.....	3062	100.0	60	212	263	360	518	642	957	50

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Table 13. MAJOR EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE EMPLOYABLE ADULT BLIND KNOWN
TO SOCIAL AGENCIES

Major employment status	Total blind persons		Male	Female
	Number	Percent		
Employed full time.....	416	45.6	317	99
Employed part time.....	45	4.9	33	12
Unemployed.....	187	20.4	123	64
Housewife.....	190	21.1	---	190
Student.....	14	1.5	11	3
Other.....	---	---	---	---
Unknown.....	60	6.5	48	12
Total.....	912	100.0	532	380

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Table 14. MAJOR EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE EMPLOYABLE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY RACE AND SEX

Major employment status	Total blind persons		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Employed full time.....	416	45.6	400	304	96	12	10	2	4	3	1
Employed part time.....	45	4.9	44	33	11	1	---	1	---	---	---
Unemployed.....	187	20.4	172	114	58	14	8	6	1	1	---
Housewife.....	190	21.1	184	---	184	5	---	5	1	---	1
Student.....	14	1.5	13	10	3	---	---	---	1	1	---
Other.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Unknown.....	60	6.5	60	48	12	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total.....	912	100.0	873	509	364	32	18	14	7	5	2

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Table 15. MAJOR TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT OF THE EMPLOYABLE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES

Major type of employment	Total blind persons		Male	Female
	Number	Percent		
Sheltered workshop.....	109	12.0	79	30
Home industries.....	9	1.0	4	5
Competitive employment.....	398	43.6	284	114
Self-employed.....	70	7.7	65	5
Housewife.....	176	19.5	--	176
Student.....	14	1.5	11	3
Other.....	5	0.6	2	3
Unknown.....	131	14.1	87	44
Total.....	912	100.0	532	380

Table 16. MAJOR EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE EMPLOYABLE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES,
BY MAJOR TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

Major employment status	Total blind persons		Major type of employment						
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Sheltered workshop	Home Industries	Competitive employment	Self- employed	House- wife	Student	Other Un- known
Employed full time.....	416	45.6	91	3	273	45	--	--	4
Employed part time.....	45	4.9	5	3	26	11	--	--	--
Unemployed.....	187	20.4	13	3	75	10	--	--	81
Housewife.....	190	21.1	--	--	13	--	176	--	1
Student.....	14	1.5	--	--	--	--	--	14	--
Other.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unknown.....	60	6.5	--	--	11	4	--	--	45
Total.....	912	100.0	109	9	398	70	176	14	131

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Table 17. MAJOR TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT OF THE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED ADULT BLIND BY SEX

Major type of employment	Total blind persons		Male	Female
	Number	Percent		
Sheltered workshop.....	96	20.8	67	29
Home industries.....	6	1.3	4	2
Competitive employment.....	299	64.9	224	75
Self-employed.....	56	12.1	53	3
Unknown.....	4	0.9	2	2
Total.....	461	100.0	350	111

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Table 18. VISUAL ACUITY OF THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES,
BY RACE AND SEX

Degree of vision	Total blind persons		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num-ber	per-cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Absolute blindness.....	458	12.9	423	222	201	22	11	11	13	7	6
Light perception only.....	421	11.8	393	196	197	14	6	8	14	9	5
Motion perception to 5/200.....	677	19.0	633	291	342	26	14	12	18	7	11
5/200 - 9/200....	215	6.1	199	89	110	11	8	3	5	3	2
10/200 - 19/200..	343	9.6	314	141	173	12	6	6	17	9	8
20/200.....	710	20.0	625	290	335	27	13	14	58	30	28
Restricted field (under 20°)....	127	3.6	117	66	51	8	5	3	2	2	--
Unknown.....	605	17.0	533	248	285	25	13	12	47	18	29
Total...	3556	100.0	3237	1543	1694	145	76	69	174	85	89

Table 19. VISUAL ACUITY OF THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY AGE

Degree of vision	Total blind persons		Chronological age														Un- known
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Under 1 yr.	1- 2	3- 5	6- 14	15- 18	19- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over			
Absolute blindness.....	458	12.9	3	7	53	77	8	11	17	29	47	51	73	79	3		
Light perception only.....	421	11.8	1	2	23	68	4	4	24	26	33	50	77	103	6		
Motion perception up to 5/200.....	677	19.0	--	--	4	28	7	4	29	42	67	125	143	221	7		
5/200 - 9/200.....	215	6.1	--	--	--	8	1	4	11	23	22	29	44	71	2		
10/200 - 19/200.....	343	9.6	--	--	2	13	7	11	25	23	27	49	83	101	2		
20/200.....	710	20.0	--	--	2	44	13	31	57	55	79	103	118	195	13		
Restricted field (under 20°).....	127	3.6	--	--	--	1	2	1	10	12	18	25	20	36	2		
Unknown.....	605	17.0	4	4	47	33	5	17	39	53	67	86	84	151	15		
Total.....	3556	100.0	8	13	131	272	47	83	212	263	360	518	642	957	50		

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Table 20. VISUAL ACUITY OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES BY EMPLOYABILITY

Degree of vision	Total blind persons		Employability		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Employable	Unemployable	Unknown
Absolute blindness.....	306	10.0	85	200	21
Light perception only.....	323	10.5	80	215	28
Motion perception to 5/200.....	638	20.8	156	420	62
5/200 - 9/200.....	204	6.7	58	130	16
10/200 - 19/200.....	319	10.4	89	207	23
20/200.....	640	20.9	218	359	63
Restricted field (under 20°).....	124	4.1	46	59	19
Unknown.....	508	16.6	180	297	31
Total.....	3062	100.0	912	1887	263

Table 21. MAJOR TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT OF THE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES
BY VISUAL ACUITY

	Total blind persons		Degree of Vision							Restricted field (under 20°)	Un- known
	Num- ber	Per cent	Absolute blindness	Light perception only	Motion perception to 5/200	5/200- 9/200	10/200- 19/200	20/200			
Sheltered workshop.....	96	20.8	19	11	13	4	7	8	3	31	
Home industries.....	6	1.3	1	--	--	--	--	3	--	2	
Competitive employment.....	299	64.9	24	26	33	20	29	93	15	59	
Self-employed.....	56	12.1	9	9	12	1	1	13	--	11	
Unknown.....	4	0.9	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	2	
Total.....	461	100.0	53	46	58	25	38	118	18	105	

Table 22. VISUAL ACUITY OF THE EMPLOYABLE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY MAJOR EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Degree of vision	Total blind persons		Major employment status					
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Employed full time	Employed part time	Unemployed	Housewife	Student	Other
Absolute blindness.....	85	9.3	45	8	18	8	1	--
Light perception only.....	80	8.8	42	4	15	15	2	--
Motion perception up to 5/200.....	156	17.1	52	6	39	49	2	--
5/200 - 9/200.....	58	6.4	23	2	12	15	--	--
10/200 - 19/200.....	89	9.8	37	1	20	20	3	--
20/200.....	218	23.9	107	11	32	46	3	--
Restricted field (under 20°).....	46	5.0	17	1	15	8	--	--
Unknown.....	180	19.7	93	12	36	29	3	--
Total.....	912	100.0	416	45	187	190	14	--

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Table 23. SOURCE OF VISUAL ACUITY DATA FOR THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY RACE AND SEX

Source of data	Total blind adults		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Examination made by ophthalmologist.	2388	93.5	2240	1043	1197	104	56	48	44	21	23
Examination made by optometrist.....	86	3.4	83	38	45	--	--	--	3	2	1
Examination made by medical doctor..	34	1.3	30	9	21	1	1	--	3	1	2
Other source.....	6	0.2	6	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unknown.....	40	1.6	36	22	14	3	1	2	1	1	--
Total.....	2554	100.0	2395	1115	1280	108	58	50	51	25	26

Comment: The 508 adults whose degree of vision was unknown do not appear on this table.

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Table 23A. SOURCE OF VISUAL ACUITY DATA FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY RACE AND SEX

Source of data	Total blind children		White			Negro			Unknown		
	Num- ber	Per- cent									
			Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Examination made by ophthalmologist..	360	72.9	290	170	120	11	4	7	59	33	26
Examination made by optometrist.....	1	0.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Other source.....	14	2.8	13	9	4	--	--	--	1	1	--
Unknown.....	119	24.1	71	34	37	1	1	--	47	20	27
Total.....	494	100.0	374	213	161	12	5	7	108	54	54

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Table 24. YEAR OF LAST OPHTHALMOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE ADULT BLIND* KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY SEX

Year	Total blind adults		Male	Female
	Num- ber	Per- cent		
1956.....	172	7.7	74	98
1955.....	301	13.4	129	172
1954.....	206	9.2	89	117
1953.....	210	9.3	96	114
1952.....	183	8.1	76	107
1947 - 1951.....	525	23.4	249	276
1942 - 1946.....	225	10.0	112	113
1937 - 1941.....	267	11.9	141	126
Prior to 1937.....	145	6.4	84	61
Unknown.....	14	0.6	4	10
Total.....	2248	100.0	1054	1094

*This table does not include the 306 adults in this study reported as absolutely blind.

Comment: The 508 adults whose degree of vision was unknown do not appear on this table.

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Table 24A. YEAR OF LAST OPHTHALMOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE BLIND CHILDREN KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY RACE AND SEX

Year	Total blind children		White			Negro			Unknown		
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1956.....	109	22.1	93	62	31	1	1	--	15	12	3
1954 - 1955.....	157	31.8	131	69	62	7	2	5	19	9	10
1952 - 1953.....	61	12.3	40	26	14	3	1	2	18	11	7
1950 - 1951.....	27	5.5	21	11	10	--	--	--	6	2	4
1946 - 1949.....	5	1.0	5	4	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
1941 - 1945.....	3	0.6	1	--	1	--	--	--	2	1	1
1936 - 1940.....	1	0.2	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unknown.....	131	26.5	82	41	41	1	1	--	48	19	29
Total.....	494	100.0	374	213	161	12	5	7	108	54	54

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Table 25. HEARING EXAMINATIONS OF THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES,
BY RACE AND SEX

Hearing examinations	Total blind persons		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Has had a hearing examination...	359	10.1	350	201	149	9	4	5	--	--	--
Has not had a hearing examination...	81	2.3	72	32	40	9	3	6	--	--	--
Unknown.....	3116	87.6	2815	1310	1505	127	69	58	174	85	89
Total.....	3556	100.0	3237	1543	1694	145	76	69	174	85	89

Table 26. HEARING EXAMINATIONS OF THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY AGE

Hearing examinations	Total blind persons		Chronological age												Un- known
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Under 1 yr.	1- 2	3- 5	6- 14	15- 18	19- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over	
Has had a hearing examination.....	359	10.1	5	3	41	138	16	16	17	15	24	27	27	30	--
Has not had a hearing examination.....	81	2.3	1	3	30	11	2	1	3	2	3	2	5	18	--
Unknown.....	3116	87.6	2	7	60	123	29	66	192	246	333	489	610	909	50
Total.....	3556	100.0	8	13	131	272	47	83	212	263	360	518	642	957	50

Table 27. AGE AT WHICH BLINDNESS FIRST DIAGNOSED, BY CHRONOLOGICAL AGE, OF THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES

Age at which blindness first diagnosed	Total blind persons		Chronological age													75 & over	Un- known
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Under 1 yr.	1- 2	3- 5	6- 14	15- 18	19- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74				
At birth.....	383	10.8	1	2	27	81	7	23	63	60	49	46	17	7	--		
Under 1 year.....	289	8.1	5	8	61	96	8	9	24	23	22	19	8	6	--		
1 - 2.....	52	1.5	--	--	9	9	2	3	4	9	6	4	4	2	--		
3 - 5.....	55	1.6	--	--	--	5	5	3	6	8	5	8	6	9	--		
6 - 14.....	178	5.0	--	--	--	3	5	12	20	35	33	36	24	10	--		
15 - 18.....	21	0.6	--	--	--	--	2	1	--	3	7	3	4	1	--		
19 - 24.....	41	1.2	--	--	--	--	--	1	17	8	7	6	2	--	--		
25 - 34.....	107	3.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	16	28	25	23	9	--		
35 - 44.....	137	3.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12	32	43	36	14	--		
45 - 54.....	138	3.9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21	39	55	22	1		
55 - 64.....	164	4.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41	71	52	--		
65 - 74.....	134	3.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40	94	--		
75 and over.....	87	2.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	87	--		
Unknown.....	1770	49.7	2	3	34	78	18	31	72	89	150	248	352	644	49		
Total.....	3556	100.0	8	13	131	272	47	83	212	263	360	518	642	957	50		

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Table 28. AGE AT WHICH BLINDNESS FIRST DIAGNOSED, BY SEX, OF THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES

Age at which blindness first diagnosed	Total blind persons		Male	Female
	Num- ber	Per- cent		
At birth.....	383	10.8	205	178
Under 1 year.....	289	8.1	160	129
1 - 2 years.....	52	1.5	25	27
3 - 5.....	55	1.6	27	28
6 - 14.....	178	5.0	102	76
15 - 18.....	21	0.6	13	8
19 - 24.....	41	1.2	26	15
25 - 34.....	107	3.0	67	40
35 - 44.....	137	3.8	75	62
45 - 54.....	138	3.9	74	64
55 - 64.....	164	4.6	74	90
65 - 74.....	134	3.7	53	81
75 and over.....	87	2.5	34	53
Unknown.....	1770	49.7	769	1001
Total.....	3556	100.0	1704	1852

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Table 29. INCIDENCE OF OTHER PHYSICAL OR OF MENTAL DISABILITIES AMONG THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY RACE AND SEX

Type of disability	Total persons with disability	White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Respiratory system...	63	54	37	17	9	6	3	--	--	--
Blood and blood-forming organs.....	31	30	8	22	1	1	--	--	--	--
Heart & circulation..	385	363	131	232	17	7	10	5	2	3
Skeleton & muscles...	242	225	87	138	17	9	8	--	--	--
Brain and nervous system.....	277	259	159	100	12	5	7	6	3	3
Digestive system.....	83	77	45	32	6	1	5	--	--	--
Reproductive system..	4	3	2	1	1	1	--	--	--	--
Ear.....	200	196	88	108	3	3	--	1	--	1
Diabetes.....	289	275	90	185	13	6	7	1	1	--
Cancer.....	28	27	15	12	--	--	--	1	--	1
Mental deficiency & retardation.....	264	239	144	95	9	4	5	16	7	9
Emotional disorder...	56	51	28	23	5	1	4	--	--	--
Psychosis.....	29	28	10	18	--	--	--	1	1	--
Senility.....	47	44	17	27	2	1	1	1	1	--
Other.....	133	123	50	73	9	5	4	1	1	--
Total.....	2131	1994	911	1083	104	50	54	33	16	17

Comment: Of the 3062 blind adults studied, 1227 were reported as having physical or mental disabilities in addition to blindness. Fourteen were reported to have no additional disabilities. No information was available for 1821.

Table 30. INCIDENCE OF OTHER PHYSICAL OR OF MENTAL DISABILITIES AMONG THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES,
BY AGE

Type of disability	Total persons with disability	Chronological age														Un- known
		Under 1 yr.	1- 2	3- 5	6- 14	15- 18	19- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over			
Respiratory system.....	63	--	--	--	2	1	1	2	9	2	13	14	19	--		
Blood and blood-forming organs..	31	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	1	3	4	2	18	--		
Heart and circulation.....	385	--	--	--	--	--	1	6	4	28	58	104	180	4		
Skeleton and muscles.....	242	--	--	--	6	2	2	6	4	22	43	68	89	--		
Brain and nervous system.....	277	4	4	39	84	8	16	18	17	24	20	34	1	1		
Digestive system.....	83	--	--	--	1	--	1	3	3	16	18	25	16	--		
Reproductive system.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	1	--	--		
Ear.....	200	--	1	1	7	2	1	5	9	19	38	37	80	--		
Diabetes.....	289	--	--	--	1	--	1	10	18	28	77	94	56	4		
Cancer.....	28	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	3	12	11	--		
Mental deficiency and retardation.....	264	4	5	39	82	8	15	26	19	25	15	18	8	--		
Emotional disorder.....	56	--	--	--	1	--	1	6	7	15	14	8	4	--		
Psychosis.....	29	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	2	2	8	7	6	1		
Senility.....	47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	8	35	1		
Other.....	133	--	--	3	--	1	2	8	4	15	28	20	50	2		
Total.....	2131	8	10	82	184	23	36	90	98	196	347	438	606	13		

Comment: Of the 3556 blind persons studied, 1408 were reported as having physical or mental disabilities in addition to blindness. Fourteen adults were reported to have no additional disabilities. No information was available for 313 children and 1821 adults.

Table 31. INCIDENCE OF OTHER PHYSICAL OR OF MENTAL DISABILITIES AMONG THE BLIND POPULATION KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES,
BY VISUAL ACUITY

Type of disability	Total persons with disability	Degree of vision					Restricted field (under 20°)	Un-known
		Absolute blindness	Light perception only	Motion perception to 5/200	5/200-9/200	10/200-19/200	20/200	
Respiratory system.....	63	6	8	17	4	7	8	13
Blood and blood-forming organs.....	31	2	3	6	2	2	7	9
Heart and circulation.....	385	34	45	97	26	50	72	54
Skeleton and muscles.....	242	33	29	53	17	23	32	49
Brain and nervous system....	277	93	49	41	14	16	22	40
Digestive system.....	83	11	10	12	3	11	18	14
Reproductive system.....	4	1	--	1	--	1	--	1
Ear.....	200	20	17	34	15	27	34	39
Diabetes.....	289	18	39	82	22	31	57	40
Cancer.....	28	4	6	3	2	3	5	5
Mental deficiency and retardation.....	264	113	54	30	5	9	15	37
Emotional disorder.....	56	6	3	14	2	5	12	10
Psychosis.....	29	1	8	4	2	2	3	9
Senility.....	47	4	7	10	5	5	6	9
Other.....	133	12	25	25	5	14	20	26
Total.....	2131	358	303	429	124	206	311	355

Comment: Of the 3556 blind persons studied, 1408 were reported as having physical or mental disabilities in addition to blindness. Fourteen adults were reported to have no additional disabilities. No information was available for 313 children and 1821 adults.

Table 32. INCIDENCE OF OTHER PHYSICAL OR OF MENTAL DISABILITIES AMONG THE EMPLOYABLE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY MAJOR EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Type of disability	Total persons with disability	Major employment status					
		Employed full time	Employed part time	Unemployed	Housewife	Student	Other
Respiratory system.....	14	7	1	4	2	--	--
Blood and blood-forming organs.....	2	--	--	1	1	--	--
Heart and circulation.....	36	11	2	13	9	--	1
Skeleton and muscles.....	30	15	3	7	5	--	--
Brain and nervous system.....	7	4	--	2	1	--	--
Digestive system.....	22	8	1	11	2	--	--
Reproductive system.....	2	--	--	2	--	--	--
Ear.....	33	14	--	12	6	--	1
Diabetes.....	62	8	5	19	24	1	5
Cancer.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mental deficiency and retardation.....	5	1	--	4	--	--	--
Emotional disorder.....	13	4	1	5	3	--	--
Psychosis.....	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Senility.....	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Other.....	17	5	3	5	4	--	--
Total.....	245	79	16	85	57	1	7

Comment: Of the 912 employable blind adults studied, 193 were reported as having physical or mental disabilities in addition to blindness. Six were reported to have no additional disabilities. No information was available for 713 others.

Table 33. INCIDENCE OF OTHER PHYSICAL OR OF MENTAL DISABILITIES AMONG THE EMPLOYABLE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY MAJOR TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

Type of disability	Total persons with disability	Major type of employment							Un-known
		Sheltered workshop	Home industries	Competitive employment	Self-employed	Housewife	Student	Other	
Respiratory system.....	14	--	--	9	2	1	--	--	2
Blood and blood-forming organs.....	2	--	--	1	--	1	--	--	--
Heart and circulation.....	36	3	--	13	6	9	--	--	5
Skeleton and muscles.....	30	5	1	10	4	5	--	--	5
Brain and nervous system.....	7	1	--	4	1	1	--	--	--
Digestive system.....	22	7	--	6	1	1	--	--	7
Reproductive system.....	2	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1
Ear.....	33	7	--	13	2	6	--	--	5
Diabetes.....	62	4	1	20	4	24	1	--	8
Cancer.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mental deficiency and retardation.....	5	2	--	1	--	--	--	1	1
Emotional disorder.....	13	1	--	5	3	3	--	--	1
Psychosis.....	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Senility.....	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other.....	17	1	--	7	3	4	--	--	2
Total.....	245	32	2	91	26	55	1	1	37

Comment: Of the 912 employable blind adults studied, 193 were reported as having physical or mental disabilities in addition to blindness. Six were reported to have no additional disabilities. No information was available for 713 others.

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Table 34. EDUCATION OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY RACE AND SEX

Education	Total blind persons		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
None.....	114	3.7	108	48	60	3	2	1	3	1	2
4 years or less..	115	3.8	101	68	33	14	9	5	--	--	--
Completed 5-8 years.....	794	25.9	730	358	372	59	33	26	5	2	3
Attended or graduated high school (9-12 yrs.)....	699	22.8	675	295	380	23	8	15	1	1	--
Attended or graduated college.....	256	8.4	243	145	98	9	7	2	4	1	3
Business or specialized vocational training*.....	56	1.8	55	17	38	--	--	--	1	1	--
Unknown.....	1028	33.6	951	399	552	25	12	13	52	25	27
Total.....	3062	100.0	2863	1330	1533	133	71	62	66	31	35

*This includes secretarial schools, nurses' training, etc.

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 35. EDUCATION OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY EMPLOYABILITY

Education	Total blind persons		Employability		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Employable	Unemployable	Unknown
None.....	114	3.7	7	103	4
4 years or less.....	115	3.8	25	83	7
Completed 5 - 8 years...	794	25.9	173	552	69
Attended or graduated high school (9-12 years).....	699	22.8	374	282	43
Attended or graduated college.....	256	8.4	126	106	24
Business or specialized vocational training*..	56	1.8	23	30	3
Unknown.....	1028	33.6	184	731	113
Total.....	3062	100.0	912	1887	263

* This includes secretarial schools, nurses' training, etc.

Table 36. EDUCATION OF THE EMPLOYABLE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY MAJOR EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Education	Total blind persons		Major employment status					
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Employed full time	Employed part time	Unemployed	Housewife	Student	Other
None.....	7	0.8	1	---	1	5	---	---
4 years or less.....	25	2.7	8	2	9	5	---	1
Completed 5-8 years.....	173	19.0	75	6	50	30	---	12
Attended or graduated high school (9-12 yrs.).....	374	41.0	179	22	74	79	5	15
Attended or graduated college..	126	13.8	81	6	21	4	9	5
Business or specialized vocational training*.....	23	2.5	11	3	5	3	---	1
Unknown.....	184	20.2	61	6	27	64	---	26
Total.....	912	100.0	416	45	187	190	14	60

*This includes secretarial schools, nurses' training, etc.

Table 37. EDUCATION OF THE EMPLOYABLE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY MAJOR TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

Education	Total blind persons		Major type of employment							Un- known
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Sheltered workshop	Home industries	Competitive employed	Self- employed	House- wife	Student	Other	
None.....	7	0.8	--	--	1	--	5	--	--	1
4 years or less.....	25	2.7	3	--	9	2	4	--	--	7
Completed 5-8 years.....	173	19.0	21	1	82	11	29	--	1	28
Attended or graduated high school (9-12 yrs.)....	374	41.0	69	7	157	23	68	5	4	41
Attended or graduated college.....	126	13.8	1	1	86	19	4	9	--	6
Business or specialized vocational training*.....	23	2.5	2	--	13	3	2	--	--	3
Unknown.....	184	20.2	13	--	50	12	64	--	--	45
Total.....	912	100.0	109	9	398	70	176	14	5	131

*This includes secretarial schools, nurses' training, etc.

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 38. MOBILITY STATUS OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES

Mobility status	Total blind persons		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Homebound (due to illness)....	366	12.0	345	140	205	14	6	8	7	4	3
Homebound (for reasons other than illness)..	35	1.1	32	11	21	3	2	1	--	--	--
Able to travel...	2661	86.9	2486	1179	1307	116	63	53	59	27	32
Total.....	3062	100.0	2863	1330	1533	133	71	62	66	31	35

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 39. MOST USUAL MODE OF TRAVEL OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES

Most usual mode of travel	Total blind persons		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
With sighted person.....	763	24.9	711	270	441	47	21	26	5	3	2
With guide dog....	38	1.2	35	20	15	3	3	--	--	--	--
With cane.....	182	6.0	167	126	41	15	10	5	--	--	--
Without aid of any kind.....	462	15.1	439	256	183	18	10	8	5	3	2
Other.....	3	0.1	3	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Most usual mode of travel unknown*..	1213	39.6	1131	507	624	33	19	14	49	21	28
Total able to travel.....	2661	86.9	2486	1179	1307	116	63	53	59	27	32
Homebound.....	401	13.1	377	151	226	17	8	9	7	4	3
Grand Total...	3062	100.0	2863	1330	1533	133	71	62	66	31	35

*"Most usual mode of travel unknown" represents the group whose mobility status is unknown and the group on whom we had contradictory information concerning mode of travel.

Table 40. MOST USUAL MODE OF TRAVEL OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY VISUAL ACUITY

Most usual mode of travel	Total blind persons		Visual acuity							Restricted field (under 20°)	Un-known
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Absolute blindness	Light perception only	Motion perception to 5/200	5/200-9/200	10/200-19/200	20/200			
Travels with sighted person...	763	24.9	150	126	176	47	62	69	18	115	
Travels with guide dog.....	38	1.2	13	10	6	1	1	--	3	4	
Travels with cane.....	182	6.0	16	20	41	12	12	11	4	66	
Travels without aid of any kind.....	462	15.1	2	7	55	28	52	218	33	67	
Other.....	3	0.1	1	--	--	--	--	1	--	1	
Most usual mode of travel unknown*.....	1213	39.6	54	87	275	92	162	302	58	183	
Total able to travel.....	2661	86.9	236	250	553	180	289	601	116	436	
Homebound (due to illness)....	366	12.0	61	67	76	22	28	38	8	66	
Homebound (for reasons other than illness).....	35	1.1	9	6	9	2	2	1	--	6	
Grand Total.....	3062	100.0	306	323	638	204	319	640	124	508	

* "Most usual mode of travel unknown" represents the group whose mobility status is unknown and the group on whom we had contradictory information concerning mode of travel.

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 41. MOST USUAL MODE OF TRAVEL OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY AGE

Most usual mode of travel	Total blind persons		Chronological age							
	Num- ber	Per- cent	21- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over	Un- known
Travels with sighted person.....	763	24.9	8	36	70	88	144	178	236	3
Travels with guide dog...	38	1.2	2	11	6	8	8	2	1	--
Travels with cane.....	182	6.0	6	15	25	35	31	42	27	1
Travels without aid of any kind.....	462	15.1	23	60	71	82	85	73	66	2
Other.....	3	0.1	--	--	--	--	1	2	--	--
Most usual mode of travel unknown*.....	1213	39.6	13	66	69	112	198	258	459	38
Total able to travel....	2661	86.9	52	188	241	325	467	555	789	44
Homebound (due to illness).....	366	12.0	8	24	19	33	48	80	148	6
Homebound (for reasons other than illness)...	35	1.1	--	--	3	2	3	7	20	--
Grand Total.....	3062	100.0	60	212	263	360	518	642	957	50

* "Most usual mode of travel unknown" represents the group whose mobility status is unknown and the group on whom we had contradictory information concerning mode of travel.

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 42. MOST USUAL MODE OF TRAVEL OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES,
BY EMPLOYABILITY

Most usual mode of travel	Total blind persons		Employability		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Employable	Unemployable	Unknown
Travels with sighted person.....	763	24.9	226	481	56
Travels with guide dog...	38	1.2	27	5	6
Travels with cane.....	182	6.0	89	84	9
Travels without aid of any kind.....	462	15.1	271	154	37
Other.....	3	0.1	--	3	--
Most usual mode of travel unknown*.....	1213	39.6	296	766	151
Total able to travel.....	2661	86.9	909	1493	259
Homebound (due to illness).....	366	12.0	2	362	2
Homebound (for reasons other than illness)....	35	1.1	1	32	2
Grand Total.....	3062	100.0	912	1887	263

*"Most usual mode of travel unknown" represents the group whose mobility status is unknown and the group on whom we had contradictory information concerning mode of travel.

Table 43. MOST USUAL MODE OF TRAVEL OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY MAJOR EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Most usual mode of travel	Total blind persons		Major employment status						Un- known
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Employed full time	Employed part time	Unemployed	Housewife	Student	Other	
Travels with sighted person.....	226	24.8	85	9	62	61	--	--	9
Travels with guide dog.....	27	3.0	16	4	4	1	2	--	--
Travels with cane.....	89	9.7	43	9	25	8	2	--	2
Travels without aid of any kind.....	271	29.7	136	15	58	48	3	--	11
Most usual mode of travel unknown*.....	296	32.5	135	8	37	72	6	--	38
Total able to travel.....	909	99.7	415	45	186	190	13	--	60
Homebound (due to illness).....	2	0.2	--	--	1	--	1	--	--
Homebound (for reasons other than illness).....	1	0.1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grand Total.....	912	100.0	416	45	187	190	14	--	60

*"Most usual mode of travel unknown" represents the group whose mobility status is unknown and the group on whom we had contradictory information concerning mode of travel.

Table 44. MOST USUAL MODE OF TRAVEL OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY MAJOR TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

Most usual mode of travel	Total blind persons		Major type of employment							Un-known
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Sheltered workshop	Home industries	Competitive employment	Self-employed	House-wife	Student	Other	
Travels with sighted person..	226	24.8	41	3	80	17	56	--	3	26
Travels with guide dog.....	27	3.0	2	--	17	3	1	2	--	2
Travels with cane.....	89	9.7	23	--	34	13	7	2	1	9
Travels without aid of any kind.....	271	29.7	22	2	142	23	43	3	1	35
Most usual mode of travel unknown*	296	32.5	20	4	125	14	69	6	--	58
Total able to travel.....	909	99.7	108	9	398	70	176	13	5	130
Homebound (due to illness)...	2	0.2	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Homebound (for reasons other than illness).....	1	0.1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grand Total.....	912	100.0	109	9	398	70	176	14	5	131

*Most usual mode of travel unknown" represents the group whose mobility status is unknown and the group on whom we had contradictory information concerning mode of travel.

Table 45. INCIDENCE OF OTHER PHYSICAL OR OF MENTAL DISABILITIES AMONG THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES,
BY MOBILITY STATUS

Type of disability	Mobility status							
	Most usual mode of travel				Homebound			
	Total persons with disability	With sighted person	With guide dog	With cane	Without aid of any kind	Other	Mode of travel unknown*	Total persons with disability
Respiratory system.....	43	19	1	5	8	--	10	17
Blood and blood-forming organs.....	19	6	--	4	4	--	5	11
Heart and circulation...	270	97	2	29	39	1	102	115
Skeleton and muscles....	147	78	3	17	19	1	29	86
Brain & nervous system..	57	25	--	8	6	--	18	79
Digestive system.....	68	27	1	10	16	--	14	14
Reproductive system.....	3	1	--	--	2	--	--	1
Ear.....	152	62	--	15	18	--	57	37
Diabetes.....	236	92	--	23	29	1	91	52
Cancer.....	15	6	--	--	6	--	3	13
Mental deficiency and retardation.....	32	13	--	6	1	--	12	88
Emotional disorder.....	41	22	--	6	9	--	4	14
Psychosis.....	6	4	--	--	1	--	1	23
Senility.....	20	10	--	3	2	--	5	27
Other.....	75	34	1	10	9	--	21	54
Total.....	1184	496	8	136	169	3	372	631
								607
								24

*"Mode of travel unknown" represents the group whose mobility status is unknown and the group on whom we had contradictory information concerning mode of travel.

Comment: Of the 3062 blind adults studied, 1227 were reported as having physical or mental disabilities in addition to blindness. Fourteen were reported to have no additional disabilities. No information was available for 1821.

Table 46. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY VISUAL ACUITY

Living arrangements	Total blind adults		Degree of vision						Restricted field (under 20°) known	Un- known
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Absolute blindness	Light perception only	Motion perception to 5/200	5/200- 9/200	10/200- 19/200	20/200		
Living alone (in own household).....	266	8.7	19	25	61	19	26	64	8	44
Rooming or boarding.....	282	9.2	44	25	55	19	24	43	8	64
Living with friend.....	45	1.5	3	6	6	3	5	12	3	7
Living with parents.....	224	7.3	26	18	31	9	29	63	7	41
Living with spouse or children.....	1079	35.2	77	98	258	75	110	234	56	171
In home of adult child.....	209	6.8	27	34	32	18	24	42	7	25
With other relatives.....	278	9.1	34	33	59	18	31	50	10	43
In institution.....	380	12.4	66	64	78	21	29	40	8	74
Other.....	1	0.1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
Unknown.....	298	9.7	10	20	58	22	41	91	17	39
Total.....	3062	100.0	306	323	638	204	319	640	124	508

Table 46A. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE BLIND CHILDREN KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY VISUAL ACUITY

Living arrangements	Total blind children		Degree of vision						Restricted field 20/200 (under 20°) known	Un- known
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Absolute blindness	Light perception only	Motion perception to 5/200	5/200- 9/200	10/200- 19/200	20/200		
Living with parents.....	337	68.2	68	62	31	9	24	60	2	81
Living with relatives.....	2	0.4	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--
Living in foster home.....	11	2.2	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	2
Living in an institution...	143	29.0	79	32	8	2	--	7	1	14
Other.....	1	0.2	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
Total.....	494	100.0	152	98	39	11	24	70	3	97

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 47. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES,
BY RACE AND SEX

Living arrangements	Total blind adults		White			Negro			Other and Unknown		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Living alone (in own household)	266	8.7	243	77	166	20	5	15	3	1	2
Rooming or boarding.....	282	9.2	254	137	117	26	19	7	2	2	--
Living with friend.....	45	1.5	38	12	26	3	2	1	4	1	3
Living with parents.....	224	7.3	216	134	82	7	5	2	1	1	--
Living with spouse or children...	1079	35.2	1030	585	445	36	24	12	13	8	5
In home of adult child.....	209	6.8	198	53	145	10	4	6	1	--	1
With other relatives.....	278	9.1	260	88	172	16	7	9	2	--	2
In institution..	380	12.4	353	137	216	14	5	9	13	6	7
Other.....	1	0.1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unknown.....	298	9.7	270	106	164	1	--	1	27	12	15
Total.....	3062	100.0	2863	1330	1533	133	71	62	66	31	35

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 47A. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE BLIND CHILDREN KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES,
BY RACE AND SEX

Living arrangements	Total blind children		White			Negro			Unknown		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Living with parents.....	337	68.2	230	126	104	8	3	5	99	46	53
Living with relatives.....	2	0.4	1	--	1	--	--	--	1	1	--
Living in foster home.....	11	2.2	10	5	5	--	--	--	1	1	--
Living in an institution....	143	29.0	133	82	51	4	2	2	6	5	1
Other.....	1	0.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--
Total.....	494	100.0	374	213	161	12	5	7	108	54	54

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 48. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ADULT BLIND KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES BY AGE

Living arrangements	Total blind adults		Chronological age							
	Num- ber	Per- cent	21- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over	Un- known
Living alone (in own household).....	266	8.7	2	8	10	37	53	52	92	2
Rooming or boarding.....	282	9.2	7	15	25	33	48	72	80	2
Living with friend....	45	1.5	1	2	1	3	7	12	19	--
Living with parents...	224	7.3	28	84	58	30	20	4	--	--
Living with spouse or children.....	1079	35.2	10	61	128	174	255	242	201	8
In home of adult child.....	209	6.8	--	--	--	2	18	48	141	--
With other relatives.....	278	9.1	1	8	15	31	45	65	113	--
In institution.....	380	12.4	7	19	18	35	39	84	169	9
Other.....	1	0.1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
Unknown.....	298	9.7	4	15	8	15	33	52	142	29
Total.....	3062	100.0	60	212	263	360	518	642	957	50

METROPOLITAN BOSTON - JULY 1956

Table 48A. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE BLIND CHILDREN KNOWN TO SOCIAL AGENCIES, BY AGE

Living arrangements	Total blind children		Chronological age					
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Under 1 yr.	1-2	3-5	6-14	15-18	19-24
Living with parents.....	337	68.2	4	6	92	185	35	15
Living with relatives.....	2	0.4	--	--	--	1	--	1
Living in foster home.....	11	2.2	--	4	1	4	2	--
Living in an institution.....	143	29.0	4	3	38	82	10	6
Other.....	1	0.2	--	--	--	--	--	1
Total.....	494	100.0	8	13	131	272	47	23

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES TO BLIND RESIDENTS OF METROPOLITAN BOSTON

JULY 1956

I. Specialized Agencies for the Blind

II. Non-specialized Agencies Serving Blind Individuals

Definition of terms used in these tables:

"Specialized Agency" -- Any agency that is exclusively concerned with serving blind persons, or that operates a special program or service for the blind.

"Non-specialized Agency" -- Any agency which does not have a special program of services developed expressly to serve blind persons.

"Educational Services" -- Table II: Reflects data provided by the program of the Boston Guild for the Hard of Hearing and the Boston Committee on Alcoholism, Inc.

"Family Services" -- Services of such organizations and entities as the various American Red Cross branches of the metropolitan area, the various Departments or Boards of Public Welfare, the Boston Legal Aid Society, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the International Institute of Boston, Inc., etc.

Further considerations in interpreting the data:

Classifications have been based upon the primary function or functions of the agency concerned; the Directory of Social Service Resources in Massachusetts was utilized in categorizing.

Several of the agencies in these tables serve blind people on a statewide, regional, or national basis. Figures in the column "Number of Schedules Returned" in these tables represent residents of Metropolitan Boston receiving services as of July 1956.

Of the 3,403 blind residents of Metropolitan Boston on the Massachusetts Register of the Blind, 66 are receiving no services. Schedules were returned for 3,556 individuals, 153 of whom were not on the register.

Note that public and parochial schools serving blind children in an integrated program do not appear on these tables. Children's schedules completed by the Massachusetts Division of the Blind indicated that 112 blind children are in integrated programs in area public and parochial schools.

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES TO BLIND RESIDENTS OF METROPOLITAN BOSTON
JULY 1956

I. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND

Agency	Number of schedules returned*
<u>Children's Services</u>	
Boston Nursery for Blind Babies.....	42
<u>Educational Services</u>	
Walter Fernald State School for the Mentally Defective.....	125
Perkins School for the Blind.....	82
<u>Health Services</u>	
Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary (Clinic for the Blind).....	9**
<u>Recreational Services</u>	
Boy Scouts (Sachem Council -- Perkins School).....	56**
Girl Scouts (Perkins School).....	40**
<u>General Service and Vocational Rehabilitation</u>	
Massachusetts Division of the Blind.....	3403
Protestant Guild for the Blind.....	26
Boston Aid to the Blind (Jewish Guild).....	424
Catholic Guild for the Blind.....	174
Massachusetts Association for the Blind***.....	278
<hr/>	
Total.....	4659

*Several of these agencies serve blind people on a statewide, regional or national basis. The numbers in this column represent individuals being served from the Boston Metropolitan Area.

**These figures represent the number of individuals reported being served; however, no schedules were returned for these individuals.

***General service, vocation rehabilitation and social center for blind women.

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES TO BLIND RESIDENTS OF METROPOLITAN BOSTON
JULY 1956

II. NON-SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SERVING BLIND INDIVIDUALS

Type of Service	Total Agencies Responding	Services Available			Services Not Available
		Number of agencies	Persons reported being served	Number of schedules returned	
Services for the Aged					
Domiciliary.....	10	3	135	5	7
General.....	2	2	16	6	--
Children's Services.....	19	10	4	10	9
Family Services.....	39	29	124	74	10
Health Services					
Mental Health.....	3	1	No Statistics Available		2
General Health.....	88	52	820	238	36
Domiciliary					
Nursing and Convalescent...	5	4	10	2	1
Boarding.....	6	3	1	--	3
Employment, Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Services...	4	2	No Statistics Available		2
Corrective and Protective Services.....	3	1	--	--	2
Educational Services.....	2	2	11	6	--
Recreational Services.....	86	43	15	22	43
Veterans' Services.....	16	9	15	3	7
<hr/>					
Total.....	283	161	1151	366	122

NOTE: Seven hundred and fifty-three specialized and non-specialized agencies in Metropolitan Boston received Schedule I; 372 replied in writing; approximately 28 more were reached by telephone.

HN79

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M4 Amer. Found. f/t Blind. Surveys.

B7

Stat. tables of a survey...
metropolitan Boston, Mass.

HN79

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M4 Amer. Found. f/t Blind. Surveys

B7

AUTHOR

Stat. tables of a survey...

TITLE

metropolitan Boston, Mass.

DATE
LOANED

BORROWER'S NAME

NOV 5 '95

~~Helen Strauss~~

